



Working together to plan for the future

News Release

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COMPASS Board of Directors Establishes 2020 Legislative Session Priorities

Meridian, ID – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) established its priorities for the 2020 Idaho legislative session in its December 2019 Board meeting.

COMPASS' 2020 Idaho legislative position statements focus primarily on transportation funding, reflecting a regional transportation funding shortfall of \$235 million per year in Ada and Canyon Counties. Priorities include support for:

- Increased state and local transportation revenue
 - Increase state motor fuels excise tax
 - Index state fuels excise tax to rate of inflation
 - Consider alternative user-charge concepts
 - Reinstigate Strategic Initiatives "surplus eliminator" provision for transportation
- Local option sales tax authority
- Dedicated funding for public transportation
- Statutory authority to implement High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes
- Dedicated funding for safe, community-oriented bicycle and pedestrian options
- A state-wide hands-free electronic device while driving statute
- Implementation of a weight/distance fee for heavy commercial and farm vehicles

The full text of COMPASS' state legislative position statements, as well as COMPASS' 2020 federal position statements, can be found at <http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/legislative.htm>.

In other business, the Board of Directors approved a population forecast of 1,075,000 people living in Ada and Canyon Counties by the year 2050. This forecasted population will be used as the basis for the next regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion 2050*.

The [COMPASS Board of Directors](#) is comprised primarily of local elected officials representing [COMPASS member agencies](#) – cities, counties, highway districts, and other government entities in Ada and Canyon Counties.